

# Visit Rochester in days gone by when trains were magical...

**The Summer Scene** depicts Rochester in the 1950s. Some of the landmarks that make up the City's skyline are visible. **What can you see?**

- Kodak
- Sibley Tower
- The Powers Building
- University of Rochester Rush-Rhees Library
- The old New York Central Railroad terminal
- Baltimore and Ohio Railroad terminal
- Lake Ontario at Summerville
- The Genesee River.

The center of the layout shows the old New York Central Railroad terminal. Passenger shelters can be seen near the rear of the terminal.

**The Fall Scene** resembles the Henrietta area around Jefferson and West Henrietta Roads. The left diorama shows the old Ray Hylan Airport, which today is the site of Marketplace Mall. The two outside main loops are from the original P.A.L. layout. The rest of the layout has been modernized.

A scale reproduction of the Penfield Road underpass can be seen in the center of this layout. Just to the right of the underpass is the Genesee River Gorge at Letchworth State Park. Here a small town stands complete with an operating gas station and a drive-in movie theater.

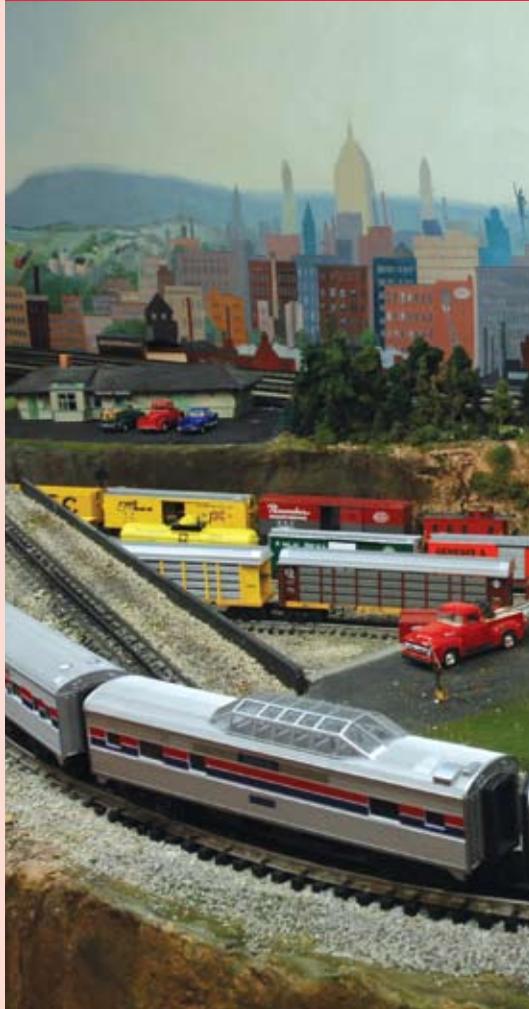
**The Winter Scene** depicts a serene and beautiful wonderland. We are swept away in a spectacular night vista. Constellations abound, twinkling in the heavens above.

Entering Main Street of a small town, we find a fire station, police station and a McDonald's Restaurant. The addition of "viewing ports" in this scene gives the effect of peering through a tunnel. The tracks to the Fall and Spring Scenes are visible there.

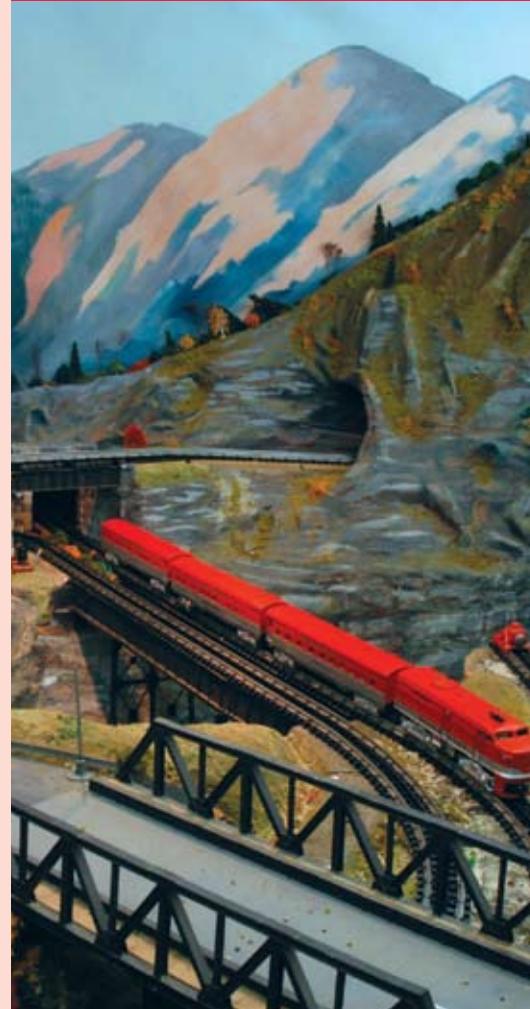
**The Spring Scene** brings us to a railroad junction in rural America. The valley is complete with mountains, farm houses and an arch bridge. The bridge is an exact scale replica of one that was used by the Erie Railroad during the Great Depression.

This scene was rebuilt a few years ago. The original Lionel "O" gauge track was also replaced with GarGraves "Phantom Line" Universal track, which was donated by Don Roder, the owner of the GarGraves Trackage Corp.

Summer in the City



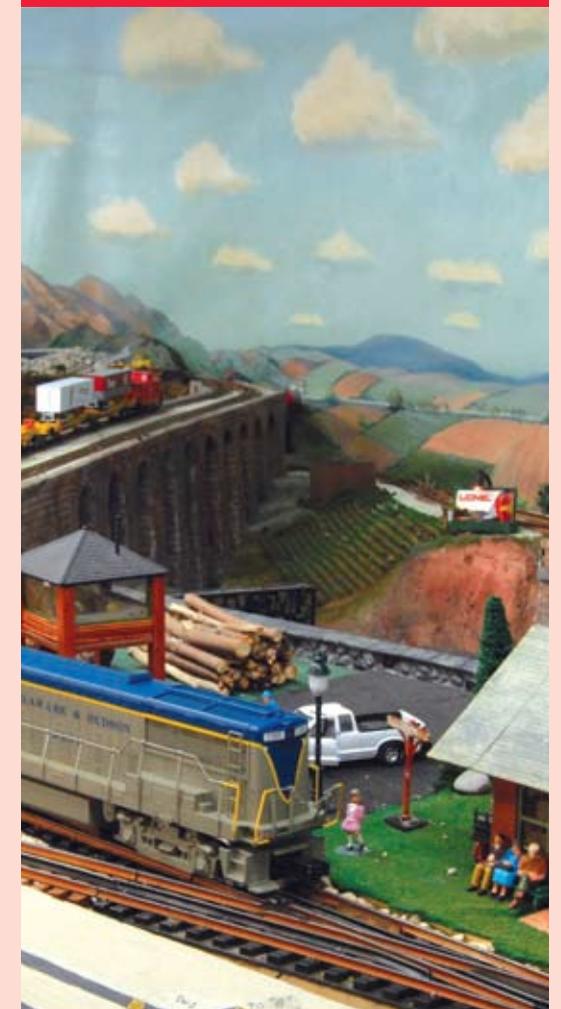
Fall in Letchworth State Park



Winter in the Mountains



Spring in the Countryside



# How it all began....

The Edgerton Model Train Room dates back to the early 1950s. Visit Rochester in days gone by. The four seasons layout is a trip through time when railroads were magical and integral to daily life.

Capt. Henry H. Jensen suggested creating a model railroad exhibit for area residents and tourists in 1950. He was a member of the Rochester Police Department and director of the Police Athletic League (P.A.L.). Captain Jensen convinced several community groups that a model railroad display was a good idea. The groups agreed and were happy to assist in planning and building the exhibit.

The members of the Rochester Art Club painted the diaramas for the four seasons display. The track blueprints were provided by the Lionel Corporation. They were engineered by the Kodak City Model Railroad Club (now known as the Edgerton Model Railroad Club). The City of Rochester supplied a crew of carpenters, who built the train room.

The Lionel Corporation donated \$5,000 worth of trains, tracks and other accessories. Throughout the years many national and local model train businesses along with individuals have given donations to continue to build and maintain the unique exhibit

New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey officially opened the "P.A.L. Model Railroad Heaven" with a ceremony on October 27, 1950. Governor Dewey drove a miniature gold spike into the exhibit's track.

In 1961, the P.A.L. turned over the operation of the train room to the City of Rochester, which still maintains the exhibit.

In 1991, Lionel again donated a large amount of stock and accessories; and in 2004 a major contribution of rolling stock and accessories was received through the National Train Collector's Association (TCA). In 1992 the exhibit was rededicated to the many volunteers who help maintain it.

**The exhibit's pieces are rare and valuable. Some of the trains we own are listed below.**

- French heavy freight and passenger engine, donated by Rochester's Sister City of Rennes, France.
- Rare German "HO" gauge train equipment includes an engine, several cars, tracks and controls.
- Other donated equipment includes models dating back to as early as 1906, engines and cars for both "standard" and "O" gauge track, Dorfan models and some American Flyer "N" scale units.

On November 12, 2000 the Train Room marked its Golden Anniversary. The exhibit is a treasure that many visitors and train enthusiasts enjoy year round.

The Model Railroad Exhibit is maintained and supported by the volunteer Edgerton Model Railroad Club and the City's Recreation Bureau staff.



## Toy Train Open House

Step back in time while reliving the days when trains dotted the Rochester landscape. Watch as they traverse the city and countryside throughout the four seasons.

## Free Tours:

11 am-2 pm, Saturdays in December  
Call for additional school winter recess hours.  
Holiday refreshments served.

Tours and train-themed birthday parties available throughout the year by appointment.

Edgerton Community Center  
41 Backus Street 428-6769

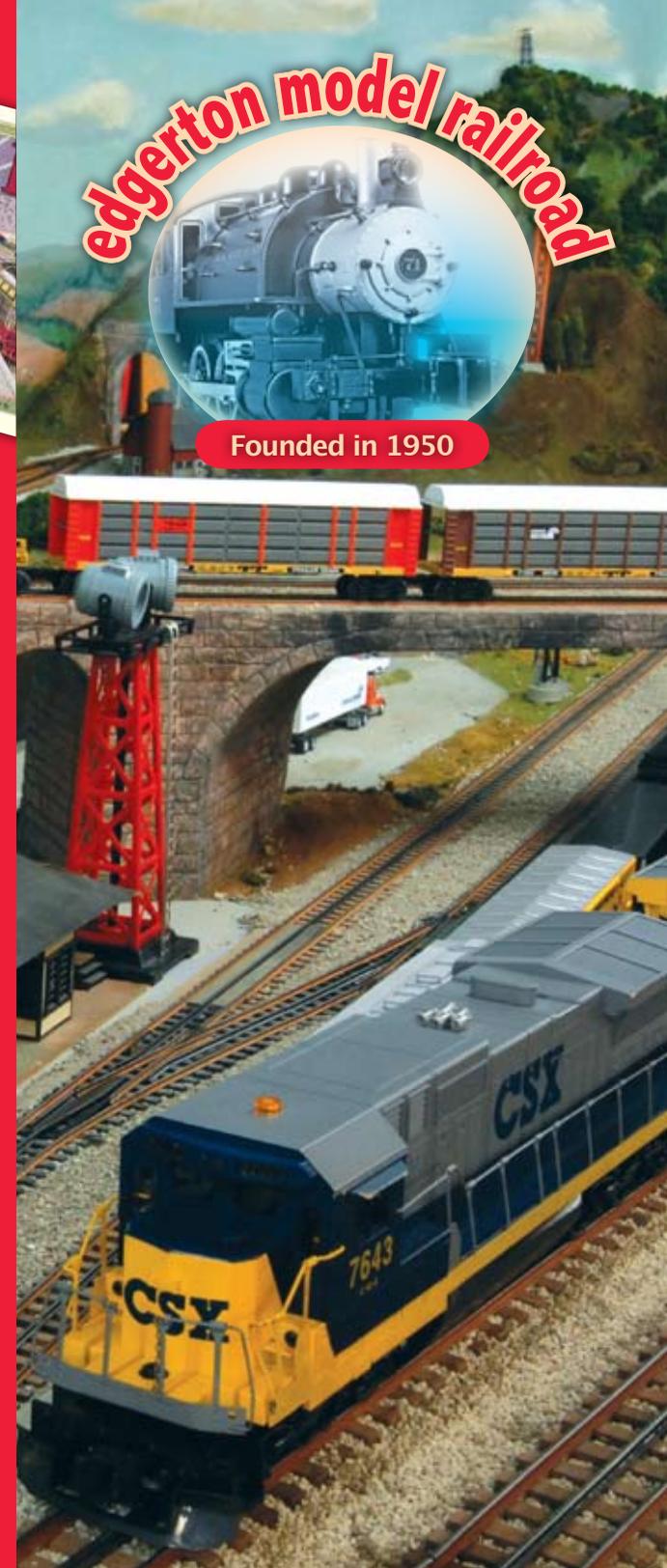
**Questions? Call 311**  
Outside the City Call 428-5990

[www.cityofrochester.gov](http://www.cityofrochester.gov)

# edgerton model railroad



Founded in 1950



## Join the Edgerton Model Railroad Club Today!

Name

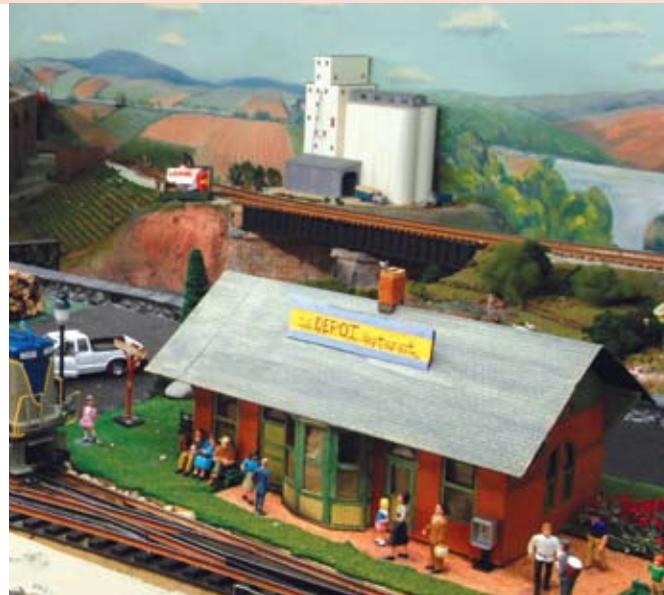
Address

City State Zip Code

Phone/Cell Phone

Email Address

Edgerton Community Center, 41 Backus Street  
Rochester, NY 14608, (585) 428-6769



Robert J. Duffy, Mayor  
City of Rochester, NY